Augmentation of capacity of Ahmedabad-Mumbai Rail Line

1904. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the existing capacity of Ahmedabad-Mumbai Railway line has been over-utilized;

(b) whether Government are considering augmentation of the capacity of this line by providing an additional track; and

(c) if so, by when this project will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The section capacity is being augmented by introduction of Automatic Block Signaling System in Ahmedabad-Mumbai Section, providing additional loop lines, yard remodelling, extension of loop lines and conversion of Halt Stations into Block Stations in the section. The work of 3rd Line from Surat to Kosamba has also been sanctioned. Further, an updating Survey for the 3rd Line from Virar to Ahmedabad has been included in the Budget 2004-05.

Diversion of unused fund for incomplete projects

1905. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds earmarked for some Railway projects are lying unutilised with Railways,

(b) if so, whether the Ministry will divert these funds to complete the project which are not yet completed due to the paucity of funds; and;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) The Progress of various works is closely monitored and it is ensured that the funds earmarked are utilized optimally. During the course of the year, after the budget is passed, if any contingency requiring

re-appropriation of funds from one project to another arises, the same is resorted to based strictly on need. The necessity may arise due to:

Some projects moving slowly due to delay in land acquisition, contractual problems, court cases etc., as a result the allotted funds become surplus.

requirement of additional funds for targeted projects.

change in availability of resources.

However, for the present, there is no such contingency foreseen which would necessitate such a re-appropriation.

Catering services on trains

1906. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have brought out some changes in the menu catering services for the passengers in the running trains; and

(b)- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The tariff and menu of Standard Meals, Breakfast, Tea/Coffee are revised from time to time at Railway Board level duly considering escalation in cost of raw material, staff, fuel, packaging material etc. Last revision of tariff & menu was made on 30.04.2003. The details of extant tariff & menu of standard item is as under:

S.No.	ITEM	(RsT)
1.	Standard tea (150 milli litre) in disposable cups of 170 milli litre capacity	3.00
2.	Tea (with tea bag) (150 milli litre) in disposable cups of 170 milli litre capacity	4.00
3.	Coffee with instant coffee powder (150 milli litre) in disposable cups of 170 milli litre capacity	5.00
4.	Tea in pots (285 milli litre)+2 tea bags+2 Sugar pouch	5.00